

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A shaft rod (2), ~~particularly~~ for a heald shaft (1) of a weaving machine, including  
a carrier body (15) which carries a shaft stave (6) or on which a shaft stave (6) is formed,  
at least one heald damping element (12) supported on the carrier body (15),  
and,  
characterized in that wherein the heald damping element (12) is supported on the carrier body to be movable transversely to the carrier body, and in the longitudinal direction of a heald mounted on the shaft stave, (15) between an abutment surface of the carrier body of the shaft rod and an outer end surface of an eyelet of a heald mounted on the shaft stave of the carrier body.
2. (Cancelled) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heald damping element (12) is supported to be movable in the longitudinal heald direction (14).
3. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the shaft stave (6) is structured such that the healds (8) are supported on the shaft stave (6) with a play (S) in the longitudinal heald direction (14).
4. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein for movably supporting the damping element (12), a support (27-33) is provided which allows a displacement of the entire damping element (12) in a position near the shaft stave (6) and a counter motion of the damping element (12) in a position remote from the shaft stave (6).

5. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) is supported in a chamber formed in the carrier body into which it ~~the damping element~~ penetrates during its motion away from the shaft stave (6) while displacing air.

6. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) is longitudinally displaceably supported.

7. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) is frictionally held for assisting the damping.

8. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) is form-fittingly held with play.

9. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) is formed of a yielding material.

10. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) has a deformable interior hollow space (42).

11. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ the damping element (12) is displaceably supported against a spring force (43).

12. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) has at least two outer surfaces (47) which have unlike shapes.

13. (Currently Amended) The shaft rod as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the damping element (12) has at least two damping regions (50) which damp differently from one another.

14. (Currently Amended) A heald shaft having a shaft rod as defined according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 13.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of fitting a heald shaft with healds and/or threading threads into the healds, comprising

~~in which performing~~ the fitting step and/or the threading step ~~is performed~~ on a heald shaft; with the damping element for the healds from at least one shaft rod of the heald shaft having been removed, and,

after completing the fitting and/or the threading step, mounting the damping element ~~is mounted~~ on the shaft rod between an outer end surface of the healds and a surface of the shaft rod for movement in a longitudinal direction of the healds.

### **Amendments To the Abstract**

Please replace the current Abstract with the following Abstract, which is additionally found on a separate page attached to the present Amendment.

#### **Abstract:**

A heald (heddle) shaft (1) comprises at least one shaft rod (2) on which a damping element (12) is supported on the shaft rod carrier body (15) to be movable in the longitudinal direction of a heald or heddle (8) mounted on a shaft stave or rail (6) carried by the body (15) so as to be moveable toward and away from an abutment surface (26) of the support body (15) and an outer end surface (22) of the eyelet of a heald or heddle (8) mounted on the shaft stave (6). By virtue of movably supporting the damping element (12), an alignment of the healds or heddles (8) is improved and facilitated, and a desired damping effect is obtained during the entire motion course of the healds or heddles (8).